2. The highly pure (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one according to claim 1, wherein the amount of (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one is 0.25% or less.

3. The highly pure (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one according to claim 1, wherein the amount of (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one is 0.1% or less.

4. A process for preparing the highly pure (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one of claim 1, comprising aging crystals of (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one in the presence of water for at least 24 hours.

6. The process according to claim 4, wherein the crystals are formed in the last step of synthesis comprising the steps of
a. reacting (7α,17α)-3,3-dimethoxy-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-norpregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one in an organic solvent with a weak acidic aqueous solution,
b. pouring out the solution in water which is slightly alkaline, and
c. washing the crystals with water which is slightly alkaline.

7. A pharmaceutical dosage unit comprising a pharmaceutically suitable solid carrier and the highly pure (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one of claim 1.

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject thereof.

9. A dosage unit comprising a pharmaceutically suitable solid carrier and (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one in an amount of less than 2.50 mg, which is less than 5% by weight of (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one.

10. The dosage unit according to claim 9, wherein (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one is present in an amount of 1.25 mg or less.

11. The dosage unit according to claim 9, wherein (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one is present in an amount of 0.625 mg or less.

12. The dosage unit according to claim 9, wherein the shelf life is at least 1.5 years.

13. The dosage unit according to claim 9, wherein at a shelf life period of 6 months the amount of (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one is 3% or less by weight of the (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one.

14. The dosage unit according to claim 13 wherein the shelf life period is 1 year.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 15. The dosage unit according to claim 12, wherein the shelf life is at least 2 years. --

-- 16. The dosage unit of claim 13, wherein the amount of (7α,17α)-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one is 2% or less. --

-- 17. The dosage unit of claim 14, wherein the shelf life period is at least 1½ years. --

-- 18. The dosage unit of claim 14, wherein the shelf life period is at least 2 years. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9-14 were amended, claim 8 cancelled and claims 15-18 added in order to adopt conventional U.S. Patent and Trademark Office terminology and formats, and to eliminate multiple dependencies. These amendments were not made for purposes of patentability under 35 USC §§101, 102, 103 or 112.